

**October 11, 2010**

## **Benefit cheat ordered to complete 60 hours community service**

A woman who failed to declare a change in her income and falsely claimed £4,273 of housing and council tax benefits, has been given a 6 month community order to complete 60 hours unpaid work.

Natasha Kemp, a lone parent from Oakfield Crescent, Blaby pleaded guilty to claiming housing and council tax benefits. In July 2008 Miss Kemp's Child Tax Credit Award nearly doubled but she did not inform Blaby District Council's Benefits Team until January 2010 when her claim was reviewed.

Miss Kemp is also repaying the debt from ongoing benefits and had to pay £20 costs contribution to the Court.

Councillor John Hudson, finance and efficiency portfolio holder at Blaby District Council, said: "Those who are claiming money they are not entitled to should be prepared to face the consequences. Not only has Miss Kemp had to repay all the stolen monies, she now has 60 hours of unpaid work to complete and court costs to pay.

"The benefits system is crucial to help those people in need and we cannot afford to waste precious resources on benefit cheats who knowingly withhold information or deliberately fail to report a change in their circumstances."

If you suspect anyone in Blaby district of committing benefit fraud, call the Council's Benefit Fraud Hotline on 0116 272 7733. All calls are confidential; callers can remain anonymous if they wish. You can also report a benefit thief online, and find out more information at:

[www.blaby.gov.uk/fraud](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/fraud)